



# EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

July 2019

## Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

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### Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

#### Disease Reporting

To report diseases and clusters of illness:

Phone: (727) 824-6932

Fax: (727) 484-3865  
(excluding HIV/AIDS)

#### To report HIV/AIDS

by mail: Surveillance Room 3-138

205 Dr. MLK Jr St. N  
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Follow us:

[@HealthyPinellas](https://twitter.com/HealthyPinellas)

We are currently in the Hurricane and Rainy Season in Florida, which means potential flooding in our area.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Flood Safety Tips and what to do during and after a flooding event.

## Florida's Mosquito Season



Source: CDC.gov

Every year, starting typically in late spring and all through the summer, Florida sees an increase in rainy days, which can lead to the creation of potential breeding sites for mosquitoes around homes and businesses. With the increase in the mosquito population, Florida observes an increase in mosquito-borne diseases, such as Dengue, Chikungunya, West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Zika.

Although transmission rates in Florida can be low, a mosquito could bite an infected individual and then transmit the disease to another person.

It is important to drain stagnant water during rainy months as these areas promote mosquito breeding and the potential spreading of diseases<sup>1</sup>. You can also protect yourself by removing debris, filling in ruts, removing tires, buckets and bottles, wearing long pants and long sleeves when outside, applying approved mosquito repellents (e.g., DEET) and covering doors and windows with screens. For more information, you can visit the Florida Department of Health's webpage [here](#).

Human infections can be asymptomatic or may produce non-specific flu-like symptoms. General mosquito-borne disease symptoms can include fever, headache, and myalgia. Diagnoses of these diseases are based on a combination of clinical signs and laboratory testing<sup>2</sup>. If you suspect you have a mosquito-borne disease, you should visit your health care provider.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/index.html>

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Florida Department of Health. Drain and Cover. Webpage: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/prevention.html>. Accessed on July 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Vector-borne Diseases. Webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/amd/what-we-do/vectorborne.html>. Accessed on July 2019.

## 2019 Hurricane Season

By: Kaila Yeager



Hurricane season officially runs from June 1 to November 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center is predicting that a near-normal season is most likely this year<sup>1</sup>. These predictions are informed by surface water temperatures and wind shear. Meteorologists with NOAA consistently monitor trends to provide the most accurate information to the public.

To date, the U.S. has already named two storms this year: Andrea and Barry. Subtropical Storm Andrea formed in late May making 2019 the fifth year in a row where the first named storm developed before the official start of hurricane season. This storm was a perfect reminder that it is never too early to prepare. Create a preparedness plan for your family using ready-made lists and guidance available online. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for checklists and family plan templates to ensure you have the supplies and information you need for yourself and your family. The National Hurricane Center's website, [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov), will provide current updates on any watches or warnings that may be issued.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Webpage: <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-predicts-near-normal-2019-atlantic-hurricane-season>. Accessed on July 2019.

# The Risks of *Salmonella* Infection and Backyard Poultry

By: Kristine Aviles, DVM, MPH

Source: CDC.gov



CDC and public health officials have been investigating multistate outbreaks of *Salmonella* infections, where one of the outbreak strains has been identified in samples collected from backyard poultry in Ohio<sup>1</sup>. Illnesses started on January 1, 2019 to May 24, and as of June 13, a total of 279 people in 41 states have been infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella*. Of these individuals, 118 (77%) of 153 ill people interviewed reported contact with chicks or ducklings. Additionally, those interviewed noted obtaining the poultry from different sources including hatcheries, websites and agricultural stores. Since 2000, 76 *Salmonella* outbreaks have been linked to live poultry with 5,128 illness, 950 hospitalizations, and 7 deaths.

Poultry can spread *Salmonella* and infect people even if the birds appear healthy<sup>2</sup>. The bacteria can also be transmitted to individuals through contact with contaminated equipment, including cages and feed and water dishes. Reduce the risk of infection by washing hands thoroughly with soap and water after contact with poultry and objects in the vicinity. In addition, avoid eating and drinking where poultry live and roam, set aside a pair of shoes to wear while caring for poultry, and avoid letting poultry inside the house. Individuals can also protect themselves by purchasing poultry from hatcheries that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Poultry Improvement Plan which is a program intended to reduce *Salmonella* in baby poultry in the hatchery. Children younger than 5, adults 65 and older, and immune-compromised individuals should not handle poultry. If eggs are collected from poultry, gather them often and clean with fine sandpaper, a brush, or a cloth. Avoid washing eggs with cold water as this may draw *Salmonella* from the egg shell into the egg. After collection and cleaning, refrigerate eggs and cook them thoroughly.

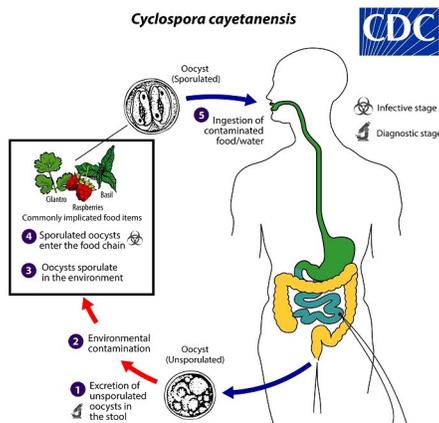
**For additional information regarding reducing the transmission of *Salmonella* from backyard poultry and signs of *Salmonella* infection, click [here](#).**

References:

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Keeping Backyard Chickens and Other Poultry. <https://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/>. Accessed on July 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Outbreaks of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Backyard Poultry. Webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/backyardpoultry-05-19/index.html>. Accessed on July 2019.

## Cyclosporiasis



*Cyclosporiasis* is an intestinal disease caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. It is commonly transmitted by ingesting food or water that has been contaminated with feces containing the parasite<sup>1</sup>. Those living or traveling to tropical/subtropical areas may be at risk of infection as *cyclosporiasis* is endemic in countries located in these zones. In the U.S., *cyclosporiasis* outbreaks have been associated with imported fresh produce.

After becoming infected, it can take about one week to develop symptoms. These symptoms include watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, weight loss, stomach cramps/pain, bloating, nausea and fatigue<sup>1</sup>. Symptoms, if not treated, may last from a few days to a month and can go away and return one or more times. Stool specimens can be used to identify the parasite for diagnosis. The illness can be treated with a combination of antibiotics and

individuals should also rest and drink plenty of fluids. If you suspect *cyclosporiasis* infection, visit your health care provider.

**For more information, you can visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/index.html>**

References:

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). About Cyclosporiasis. Webpage: [https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/gen\\_info/faqs.html#what\\_cyclo](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/gen_info/faqs.html#what_cyclo). Accessed on July 2019.

## Health Advisories and Travel Notices

[CDC Current U.S. Outbreak List](#)

[Update: Ebola in Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[HIV cases—Pakistan](#)

# Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	June 2019	June 2018	Pinellas 2019	Florida 2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>A. Vaccine Preventable</b>							
Measles	0	0	1	2	7	0	0
Mumps	0	1	1	66	2	2	0
Pertussis	3	2	10	181	32	36	18
Varicella	2	25	18	510	67	24	74
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	1	0	2	10	1	2	2
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	0	2	44	9	7	7
Meningococcal Disease	1	0	1	15	1	0	0
<b>C. Enteric Infections</b>							
Campylobacteriosis	26	31	148	2320	264	207	178
Cryptosporidiosis	6	3	29	285	34	40	27
Cyclosporiasis	1	0	1	17	4	6	5
<i>E. coli Shiga Toxin (+)</i>	0	1	10	379	14	9	4
Giardiasis	3	2	29	537	41	45	41
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	1	16	1	0	2
Salmonellosis	19	32	70	2605	233	278	188
Shigellosis	4	7	12	744	40	26	19
<b>D. Viral Hepatitis</b>							
Hepatitis A	35	6	296	1725	113	1	2
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	0	0	7	213	14	25	28
Hepatitis B, Acute	6	7	40	451	52	51	70
Hepatitis C, Acute	8	1	53	533	40	30	49
<b>E. VectorBorne/Zoonoses</b>							
Animal Rabies	0	0	0	65	1	3	3
Rabies, possible exposure	14	5	70	2069	130	140	131
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Dengue	0	0	1	51	0	0	2
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	3	3	29	12	17	16
Malaria	0	0	3	22	3	0	0
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	3	40	2	5	23
<b>F. Others</b>							
Chlamydia	305	320	2131	n/a	4422	4188	4133
Gonorrhea	119	102	614	n/a	1439	1574	1566
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Legionellosis	2	0	10	181	0	0	0
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Syphilis, Total	25	34	208	n/a	438	382	400
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	13	19	90	n/a	190	160	188
Syphilis, Early Latent	8	8	86	n/a	158	128	146
Syphilis, Congenital	0	1	4	n/a	2	5	2
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis )	4	6	28	n/a	88	89	64
Tuberculosis	0	1	12	n/a		28	31
<i>Vibrio Infections</i>	1	1	9	125	6	11	8

\*YTD up to June 30, 2019. n/a = not available at this time

Reportable diseases include confirmed and probable cases only. All case counts are current and provisional as of July 5, 2019. Data is collected from the Merlin Reportable Disease database, surveillance systems maintained at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, and Florida CHARTS <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/default.aspx>. STD data in STARS is continually updated. Please note, data from the previous month takes up to an additional month or more to be correctly updated.